



FLORIDA PAROLE COMMISSION

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Vacant
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FLORIDA PAROLE COMMISSION Monthly Accomplishments' Report November/December 2011

~CHAIR'S MESSAGE~

Tena M. Pate

The months of November and December were filled with numerous trips from the Commission to the Capitol to testify before legislative committees, and attend meetings with legislators, the Governor's Office, members of the Cabinet, as well as holding weekly hearings at the Parole Commission. In addition, the Parole Commission assisted the Board of Executive Clemency, comprised of the Governor and the Florida Cabinet, with the last quarterly Clemency Hearing for 2011 held December 16.

Legislatively, I am pleased to inform you that the Commission's priority substantive legislation for 2012, "Extended Parole Interviews for Certain Offenses (CS/CS/HB 329 and CS/SB 506)," is advancing through its Committees of Reference. Senator Evers and Representative Trujillo are doing a great job leading this effort, and we are most grateful for their support of this important public safety and victim-relief bill. The House prime bill sponsors are Representatives Trujillo and Perry, and the co-sponsors are Representatives Eisnaugle, Harrell, McBurney, Metz, Pilon, Porth, Rouson, Slosberg, Steube, and Young. Again, I am most appreciative for the strong bi-partisan support for this legislation. The Senate version of the bill is a committee substitute by the Committee on Criminal Justice and Senator Greg Evers (prime bill sponsor). The Commission also bade farewell to Mr. Will Kendrick as he resigned from the Commission to accept a position with the Department of Corrections. We appreciate all of his service to the Commission over the past few years and wish him much success in his new position.

In addition to our weekly Commission hearings and legislative activities, I participated in meetings of the Florida Supreme Court's *Florida Innocence Commission*, the Attorney General's *Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team*, and Leadership Florida's Class XXX activities. I also toured the "Lifer's Program" of the Sumter Correctional Institution; toured the Hillsborough Correctional Institution (HCI), a female, faith-based prison; visited our Regional Office at HCI; visited a local probation office; and, for the first time, participated in a ride-along with a probation officer. This was an interesting and educational experience for me, providing me a greater awareness and appreciation of what community supervising officers experience while conducting home visits. A special "thank you" is due to Secretary Ken Tucker, Department of Corrections, and his team for making these visits possible. On November 30, Dr. Evelyn Ploumis-Devick of the Department of Corrections attended the Commission's hearing with several of the Department's interns. The interns were as follows:

Mackenzie Hayward -	Florida State (senior) Criminology/major; Mathematics/minor
Terrance Mathis -	Florida State (senior) Criminology major
Ronnie Matthews -	Florida State (Senior) Criminology major

James Seay - Florida A & M (Senior) Criminology/Sociology major
Telisha Woody - Florida A & M (Senior) Criminal Justice major

Since becoming Chair, a top priority has been the education of the Commission's stakeholders, key policy makers, leadership and staff of other criminal justice and state agencies, and others on the important role the Parole Commission plays in providing for the safety of Florida's citizens and visitors. This also includes the Commission's role in fostering and providing meaningful opportunities and a second chance to those deserving individuals seeking to successfully reintegrate back into society.

On October 4, I was invited to appear before the Senate Criminal Justice Committee to talk about the Commission and its involvement in the criminal justice system since its inception. We were especially pleased to provide this information as it gave the Commission another opportunity to educate Senators and those in attendance on the many duties and responsibilities the Commission has carried out over the years. Other networking efforts include partnering with the Department of Corrections in its Re-Entry efforts and the Attorney General's Office to conduct statewide training regarding the Commission and its services. In December, Daphne Asbell, the Commission's Victims' Advocate, presented and trained at a victims' forum on behalf of the Commission, and as my schedule permits, I will be joining Ms. Asbell with these trainings over the next six months. Additionally, in December, we committed to sponsoring and presenting trainings at the Attorney General's *Preventing Crime in the Black Community Conference* to be held in May 2012. Preparations and plans are being finalized as the Florida Parole Commission readies to host the 2012 Annual Conference of the Association of Paroling Authorities International. Representatives from paroling authorities from around the nation and world will be in attendance at this conference to be held in Orlando in May of this year.

In closing, I simply want to spotlight the employees of this small (only 121 employees) but incredibly vibrant state agency. The Holiday Season (Thanksgiving and Christmas) has simply brought the best out of our team. I was able to challenge them in one of our weekly quotes to take time to get more involved in the lives of those around us, and they readily accepted that challenge. I have been encouraged to hear all the stories that have come forward as a result. The Central Office Team (Tallahassee) raised enough money to provide for more than 2,000 meals for a local food bank. and the Region V Team (Tampa/St. Pete) provided, through a local ministry, two boxes filled with enough food to provide for Christmas dinners for designated needy families. Also, two members of our team, unbeknownst to each other, provided shelter and money to two separate homeless people in the Tallahassee area – one for an extended stay in a local hotel of 30 days and another providing food, money, and essential items to a needy person. The Commission's employees also participated in efforts by *Toys for Tots* and the Chapter Two - *Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency* to provide gifts for children and for many elder residents of local nursing homes. And, even with all of these activities, the stories continue to come in.

I have said it before, and I will say it again, it is an absolute honor for me to serve with such an awesome, dedicated, and professional group of caring individuals. They inspire me every day, and I can't wait to see what we accomplish together in 2012!

~FEATURED CASES~

The following selected cases are a sampling of the serious matters handled by the Commission on a routine basis. These cases, and many more like them, were handled by the Commissioners over the past two months.

~After serving a portion of a ten-year sentence for attempted robbery, inmate William VanDinter (DC 076312) was paroled on 7/31/84 to a five-year term of supervision. Supervision was transferred to the State of Colorado via the Interstate Compact Agreement. On 7/15/86, the Florida Parole Commission issued a warrant for parole violation based upon information provided by Colorado that the parolee had moved without permission and had absconded from supervision. The parolee was subsequently arrested in Colorado on 7/31/86 for a new crime, but refused to waive extradition to Florida to face the parole violation. He was later sentenced to 16 years in prison in Colorado for his new crime. Although a detainer was filed by the Florida Parole Commission, it did not follow the offender through his Colorado incarceration, and he was later released to the street. From 1998 to mid 2011, the subject was arrested approximately 7 times in different jurisdictions, but the FPC warrant went undetected. On 8/15/11, the subject was arrested again and finally served with the FPC warrant. He again refused extradition, but with a Governor's warrant secured, he was returned to Florida to face the 1986 parole violation. He is currently proceeding through the revocation process.

~Two cases in particular brought significant media attention. After numerous continuances, inmate Clarence Frederick was paroled on November 12, 2011. A second case involved inmate Stephen Harkins (DC#063750), who received 3 life sentences for the murder, kidnapping, and sexual battering of a teenaged boy. He was denied parole in May 2002, resulting in his PPRD (presumptive parole release date) being suspended. On November 30, 2011, the Commission reviewed his Extraordinary Interview and voted unanimously to make no change in his suspended date and moved his 5-year review to 7 years. Inmate Harkins' case will not be reviewed again until August 2018.

~During this period, the Commission also terminated the parole supervision of 5 parolees based on their length of time and success since being released on supervision, continued employment, community involvement, and continued compliance with all terms of supervision.

Inmate Name	Original charges	How long incarcerated	Parole Date/How Long on Supervision	Overall success	Comments
James Ables DC 047343	1st Deg. Murder (LIFE)	25 years	Paroled 10/24/2000 11 years supervision	Crew Leader in the Waste Water Dept.	Has made a positive adjustment in his life, employer considers him an exceptional employee. CPO recommended early termination.
Michael Gains DC 077358	Robbery Deadly Weapon (99 yrs)	19 years	Paroled 12/5/2000 11 years supervision	Employed with a Marketing Co. for over 9 years	Involved in Re-entry with the community and has received positive feedback from the community praising his efforts.

John Smith DC 045985	2nd Deg. Murder & Robbery w/Deadly Weapon - 99 yrs	18 ½ years	Paroled 8/8/2000 - 11 years supervision	Employed with the Prison Christian Ministry for over 9 years; Stable residence and family man	No supervision concerns, FL CPO recommended early termination
Eugene Johnson DC 080158	Robbery w/ Deadly Weapon – 45yrs	1st time – 5 1/2 yrs; Revoked in 1995. 2nd time – 6 yrs	Paroled 4/28/1987 1st time – 8 yrs of supervision. Paroled 11/13/2001 2nd time – 10 yrs supervision.	Self-Employed Carpet Cleaner and resides out- of-state in VA	No supervision concerns, VA Officer recommended early termination
Raymond Jeffers DC 007553	1st Deg. Murder (Life)	16 Years	Paroled 1/30/1979 - 32 Years supervision	Disabled, resides in Kentucky, stable residence	No supervision concerns

COMMISSION SECTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OPERATIONS

Jack deRemer, Director

- The Electronic Inmate Files project continues. We are awaiting delivery of necessary hardware and software (scanners and document conversion software) to continue and conclude our system testing.
- Sheila Roberts, our Region IV Regional Administrator, represented the Florida Parole Commission at the British Overseas Territories Parole Conference which was held in Miami on November 16th and 17th, 2011. This organization consists of parole agency representatives from the United Kingdom Caribbean Overseas Territories & Bermuda, which includes Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and the Turks & Caicos Islands. Although this was a rather small conference, the proximity of these Territories to the United States and the high likelihood of illegal interchange among our offenders create the need for maintaining a mutually beneficial relationship with these Territories.

Some comments from Sheila's recap of the event:

Numerous issues were discussed, but some of the things that stood out for me were that the parole boards' represented at this seminar basically has the same mission as the Parole Commission regardless of their size or their caseload. Whether it was the Canadians or one of the smaller Caribbean Territories, the role of each board was defined as a means to protect the public by controlling offenders during their term of release and to also ease the progress of the offenders' transition back into society. They all are faced with the task of making sound decisions when determining whether an offender is a good risk while at the same time making public safety their main concern. Offenders' risk factors are mainly the same and measured based on severity of offense, prior history, and institutional adjustment. Victims and community input are also taken into consideration when making decisions as to whether an offender should be released to live freely in society.

It was interesting to know that some of the smaller territories parole hearings are not held publically, but Canada whose system resembles ours is public except, if I remember correctly; visitors must apply to attend their hearings.

- Preparations continue for the 2012 Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI) conference, which will be hosted by the Florida Parole Commission in May, 2012, in Orlando. We have been reviewing and screening proposals for presentations and workshops, have selected our keynote speaker, and will be finalizing the program in the upcoming weeks. On December 9, 2011, our proposed program and schedule was presented to and approved by the APAI Executive Committee. Letters of invitations to dignitaries will be mailed in the near future.
- We are often requested to participate in the inmate transitional programs presented by DC, however our ability to attend all of these presentations is limited by our work schedules and available resources. Several years ago we created a video presentation regarding RCR and Clemency that can be shown to inmates when we cannot attend. In December we made arrangements with DC to record an updated version of this presentation to address the new Rules that were enacted in 2011. In December this presentation was recorded at Lawtey CI during an actual inmate transitional class, and the DVD will be distributed to all of our field offices for use when needed.
- We have been working closely with the management at Sumter CI regarding the Lifer's Program that is in operation at that facility. We have addressed some mutual concerns, and attended a Lifer's Program Committee meeting along with Sumter CI management and the operators of the Lifer's Program. Some of the items addressed were inmate participant accountability, inmate tenure in the program, proper records keeping, and inmate eligibility. We have also has some communication with the DC Classification Office, as they are trying to better define their role in the overall Lifer's Program initiative. Chair Pate personally visited with the Warden of Sumter Correctional Institution and his team as well as with representatives and inmates of the Lifer's Program during the month of December.

Release Services:

Cases Docketed:

	October	November	December
Parole	132	119	160
Conditional Medical	5	3	2
Conditional Release	590	556	541
Addiction Recovery	142	117	150
TOTALS	869	795	853

Monthly totals for Imaging Inmate Records (IRIS)

Completed Documents November - 23,590

Completed Documents December - 20,194

Month	Paroles		Conditional Medical Release	
	Granted	Denied	Granted	Denied
November	5	4	1	1
December	2	1	0	2

Revocations:

Statistics:

	October	November	December
Warrants Issued	146	144	181
Cases Reviewed and Prepared for Docket	182	108	150

**** Sample includes Parole, Conditional Release, Addiction Recovery Release and Control Release cases ****

Other Activities

Conference call with USDOJ

On 12/20/11, Shana Lasseter and Sarah Rumph participated in a conference call with Robbye Braxton-Mintz, Correctional Program Specialist, U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections regarding FPC developing its own risk/needs based assessment instrument.

The NIC Technical Assistance Program responds directly to the needs, problems, and individual requirements of state and local correctional agencies. NIC's technical assistance includes onsite guidance, support, consultation, or training provided by an experienced technical resource provider or guidance, support, consultation, or training provided by an experienced technical resource provider or NIC staff member who serves in an advisory capacity and works with agency staff. An agency may request assistance to:

- Assess programs and operations.
- Implement effective practices.
- Improve agency management, operations, and programming.
- Refine the design, delivery, management, and evaluation of staff training programs.
- Assist in the development of offender job training and placement efforts.

The Commission has forwarded its request to work with the Department of Justice/National Institute of Corrections in developing this risk/needs based assessment instrument to the Governor's Office for authorization. The Commission believes this instrument will better enable the Commission to more efficiently perform its duties.

Victim Services:

During November and December, Victims Services handled 435 victims' requests for information on parole, clemency, conditional medical and conditional release cases. In addition, we located and made initial contact with 82 victims on parole and clemency cases. We did 628 status updates on parole and clemency cases by giving early notice of hearings and by letting victims know the outcome immediately after the hearings by telephone or e-mail. We assisted 88 victims who attended parole hearings.

On December 16 we participated in the Clemency Board Meeting. There were 45 cases on for the clemency docket that had victims listed, however only two victims attended the meeting.

During December we initiated fewer victim contacts, as we do every year, because victims generally don't want to be reminded about their victimization during the holidays. Rather we have concentrated on house-cleaning and maintenance of our files over the holidays. Daphne Asbell also sent lists of upcoming capital felony cases that are due for initial interviews in the next year to the 20 State Attorneys Offices. We also read 25 victims' letters at the Commission Meeting for the victim's who couldn't attend hearing.

Supervisor Daphne Asbell traveled to Orlando on December 7, 2011 to present a four-hour training to 40 attendees on the Parole Commission as a part of the Post Conviction Advocacy Training offered by the Attorney Generals Office. Chair Pate and Ms. Asbell will be participating in these trainings over the next six months.

Supervisor Daphne Asbell also wrote an excellent four page article on Innovative Practices in Victim Searches that we submitted to the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI) for their newsletter. The article was very well received and will also be posted on the APAI website.

	October 2011	November 2011	December 2011
Victim's requests for information on parole, conditional release, and conditional medical cases	195	243	192
Victim's Located	50	60	22

Status updates to victims on parole, conditional medical, and clemency cases.	262	391	237
Assisted victims who attended parole or clemency hearings.	36	38	50

Field Services:

Field Services Statewide Activity Totals

	November 2011	December 2011
Monthly interviews and hearings conducted:		
Parole Interviews	65	84
Revocations Interviews	196	234
Revocation Hearings	64	42
Total interviews and hearings during the month	325	348

Region I:

- Tom Hamilton and Russ Gallogly participated in a re-entry seminar at Wakulla CI on November 15, 2011.
- Tom Hamilton and Russ Gallogly participated in a re-entry seminar at Santa Rosa Annex on November 16, 2011.
- Examiner Nell Simmons is one of the Guiding Lions for the new Baker Lion's Club. Nell has learned to operate the camera to test for amblyopia (lazy eye) in pre-school children so that the testing could be introduced into the Pensacola area.

Region II:

- On December 6, 2011 Examiner Ralph Moulder completed a RCR Re-entry presentation, of which was recorded by the Department of Corrections to be utilized during the Re-entry Seminars when the Commission is unable to attend.
- Examiner Ralph Moulder out of the Lawtey Office submitted a letter of retirement and his last day will be January 27, 2012.
- The position that will be vacated by Ralph Moulder in Lawtey has been advertised and the advertisement closed on December 30, 2011.

Region III:

- On December 7, 2011, Dale Nichols was recertified for FCIC/NCIC use.

Region IV:

- On October 27, 2011, Johnshay Footman received a Certificate of Achievement for successful completion of Computerized Criminal History.
- On November 9, 2011, Leris Calderon received a Certificate of Decoding Digital Evidence: What Every Law Enforcement Officer Must Know by the FBI's Digital Evidence Laboratory's RCFL Program-America's Premier and Most Accredited Digital Forensics Laboratory Network. This training referenced:
 - Current trends in digital forensics including the types of investigations RCFL personnel most frequently support, including crimes against children.
 - Utilizing the power of social media during criminal investigations to generate leads, with a special focus on crimes against children.
 - Best practices for handling Smartphone's, tablets, e.g. iPads, audio/video surveillance, and more.
 - Major legal considerations surrounding digital evidence.
- On November 16, 2011, Sheila Roberts and Ayesha Carson gave a power point presentation on the work of the Florida Parole Commission at a Parole Conference held in Region IV-Miami at the Mayfair located in Coconut Grove with the International Parole Board Canadian and British Delegates. The Conference included 12 delegates (2 from each territory) and 4 international facilitators.
- On December 8, 2011, Jayne Hayden graduated from the FBI Miami Citizen's Academy 2011 Fall Class. There were a total of 18 participants from various backgrounds and professions. The graduation ceremony included a formal dinner with special guest speakers. Their class was also offered the opportunity to participate in a trip to Washington DC in March 2012, to tour FBI Headquarters, Quantico, and the Capitol. Jayne feels this was an experience of a life time and she is extremely honored to have been selected to participate and remain on as an alumnus.
- As of December 15, 2011, Indiantown FPC Office is no longer housed at Martin Correctional Institution. The office officially relocated to Circuit 19-1, Stuart, Probation and Parole Office, and is now considered the Florida Parole Commission Stuart Office. The location/contact information is as follows:

Florida Parole Commission
2015 S. Kanner Highway
Stuart, Florida 34994
Office Number (772) 223-2540
Fax Number (772) 223-2541

- A candidate has been selected to fill the vacant Parole Examiner position in the Stuart Office and it is anticipated the position will be filled by no later than January 9, 2012.

Region V:

- Melinda Strickland has transferred her FCCD membership to Chapter 22, Pinellas County. She is the president of this chapter and is revitalizing this FCCD chapter.
- Mary Williams won the basketball free throw contest for Region V. This was a United Way fund raiser which the staff participated in.
- Jessica attended the Hillsborough County Public Safety Council Meeting on 11/18/2011, representing FPC.
- On 11/19/2011, Patti Razor participated in the distribution of Thanksgiving Day baskets to the less fortunate sponsored by Daystar Life Center, Inc., St. Petersburg, Florida
- The staff of Region V celebrated the Thanksgiving Holiday by sharing a buffet lunch at the home of Jessica Ghent after their monthly staff meeting. The delicious dishes were provided by the staff members who showed their great culinary and grilling skills.
- Patti Razor attended the 12/1/2011 Pinellas Ex-offender Reentry Coalition meeting.
- Helen Williams-Lester and John Doyle participated in the 12/2/2011 HCI Culinary Arts Program practicum.
- Retired Region V Parole Examiners, Tom Pappas and Harv Buckner, visited FPC staff at HCI on 12/8/2011.
- Jerry Harris and Patti Razor participated in the 12/9/2011 HCI Culinary Arts Program practicum.
- FCCD Chapter 22, Pinellas County, of which Melinda Strickland is a member, assists the Safe Harbor Program in Pinellas County with offender reentry and provides support to the homeless, i.e., food, clothing, jobs, etc.
- FCCD Chapter 22 collected teddy bears to donate to the sheriff's offices for children victims in December 2011.
- FCCD Chapter 22, held their first Meet & Greet at the Midtown Sundries Restaurant in St. Petersburg on 12/15/2011. Melinda Strickland attended.

- Scott Harris, Region V's 2011 United Way volunteer, thanked staff for their donations this year. The monies raised by way of games & events will be donated to the Special Olympics local chapter per staff vote.
- Patti Razor participated in the Quarterly Re-entry Meeting with Assistant Warden Velez and DC staff on December 22, 2011.
- Region V staff took on a Christmas Project by collecting food for Metropolitan Ministries in Tampa. Two boxes of needed items were filled to provide Christmas dinner to families for the holiday.

ADMINISTRATION
Gina Giacomo, Director

- Submitted the Commissions Crime Policy Renewal
- Assisted with bill analysis
- Arranged for an Internship booth at Keiser University during their law enforcement days.
- Provided staff with safety tips as agency safety coordinators
- Chair for the Charitable Campaign
- Completed Aging Workforce survey
- Submitted Procurement Process Improvement Project survey
- Attended workshop on transferring FPC vehicles from EMIS system to the new Fleet system
- Provided the Florida Senate information regarding the Commissions state contracts

COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
Jane Tillman, Director

- Ms. Tillman returned to work on November 14 after 4 weeks on medical leave. A heartfelt "thank you" to Will Kendrick, the Leadership Team, and Tammy Salmon for keeping this Office running while I recuperated. I am so grateful to return and am excited about the upcoming 2012 Session and the many accomplishments made while I was out to assure a successful Session for the Commission in 2012!
- Beginning November 14 assisted the Chair, Gina Giacomo and Sarah Rumph in finalizing and coordinating the amended versions of the Extended Interview Bills filed by Senator Greg Evers and Representative Carlos Trujillo. This included updating all materials, amendments, and updated bill analyses on the Commission's priority substantive issue for the 2012 Session.
- Assisted the Chair and the Leadership Team in the final drafting of the Commission's FY 2010-11 Annual Report due to the Governor and Legislative Leaders on December 31. This report was delivered the Governor, the Cabinet, the Florida Senate President, and the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives on Thursday, December 29. It will also be posted to the Internet and Intranet sites.

- Met with Legislative Committee Staff and attended December 2011 Legislative Committee Hearings with the Chair.
- Prepared presentations and talking points for the Chair's use when presenting the Commission's priority bill for the 2012 Session to the House and Senate Committees.
- Worked with the Clemency Leadership Team to provide public information on the December 16 Clemency Board meeting to the press and public.

~ MONTHLY CLEMENCY PENDING CASE UPDATE~
Steve Hebert, Director

As of January 1, 2012, there were 32,819 pending clemency cases which include 26,589 RCR cases and 6,230 non-RCR clemency cases such as Full Pardon, Specific Authority to Own, Possess or Use Firearms, Remission of Fines, Commutation of Sentence and Request for Review.

The RCR cases include:

	November 1	December 1	January 1	Change
RCR Without a Hearing Cases	17,052	16,609	16,169	-5.18%
RCR With a Hearing Cases	11,089	10,630	10,420	-6.03%
Total	28,141	27,239	26,589	-5.52%

NOTE: In addition to the 32,819 pending clemency cases, there were also 55,220 EOS/TOS RCR cases for a total of 88,039 pending clemency cases. These EOS/TOS cases are known to be ineligible since they do not meet the RCR eligibility requirements of either the 5 or 7 year waiting period of the amended Rules. However, there is still a workload component involved in processing these cases as ineligible in our clemency database which will include data entry and generation of letters to be mailed to all individuals.

Clemency Investigations:

Highlights / Accomplishments for November and December 2011 for the Office of Clemency Investigations:

- On November 10, 2011, seven members of our office participated in the 2011 Florida State Employees Charitable Campaign (FSECC) 5K Run/Walk.
- Throughout the month, the Director and staff met with DC OIT staff and also conducted user testing and made recommendations on the continued development of the RCR at a Glance application which is being created to enhance our efficiency in conducting RCR investigations.
- Staff have continued to review all RCR cases for eligibility under the criteria of the amended rules prior to sending them out to field offices for in-depth field investigations to be conducted;

conduct Request for Review investigations for commutation of sentence applications; and provide quality assurance reviews of all clemency investigations completed by regional field offices, including reviewing Confidential Case Analyses for the upcoming December 16, 2011 Clemency Board Meeting.

- The Governor and Cabinet, sitting collectively as the Clemency Board, held its fourth quarterly Clemency Board Meeting at the Capitol on December 16, 2011. The Commission completed and submitted 81 in-depth clemency investigations for Full Pardons, Firearm Authority and Restoration of Civil Rights for consideration by the Board. The Coordinator of the Office of Executive Clemency presented the cases to the Board, and the Chair provided detailed information related to the Confidential Case Analyses and processes to the Board Members in response to their inquiries.
- In December the Commission researched the specific reasons why applicants requested restoration of their civil rights. We reviewed the 64 Restoration of Civil Rights cases heard at the December 16, 2011 Clemency Board Meeting. Several applicants indicated multiple reasons in their statements to our examiners, and the following information is a brief summary of what their statements revealed:
 - 72% of the applicants specifically indicated that they were interested in regaining their right to vote, sit on a jury or hold public office.
 - 19% of the applicants specifically indicated that they were interested in obtaining their civil rights to help them with employment, ranging from specific licenses or occupations to general job opportunities.
 - 22% of the applicants did not provide any specific reason for requesting their civil rights.
 - In addition, 30% of the applicant's seeking restoration of their civil rights at the December 16, 2011 Clemency Board Meeting had voted in past elections without having their rights restored.
- The Director of Clemency Investigations assisted in the development of clemency information for the agency's Annual Report.
- Parole Examiner Cindy Waymon represented the Commission at Keiser University's Law Enforcement Day in Tallahassee, Florida on December 8, 2011. She had an information table with Commission pamphlets and answered questions regarding internship opportunities with the Commission and educated students and others in the community to the functions of the Commission.

Executive Clemency
Julia McCall, Clemency Coordinator

As a follow-up to ideas gleaned from our website review committee, we have updated the wording and procedural steps on the Restoration of Civil Rights certificate search page. Previously, if an individual had been granted Restoration of Civil Rights at a hearing before the Clemency Board, the grant information would not be found on the website. Now the website will advise that the person has been granted Restoration of Civil Rights and a copy of the Executive Order can be mailed from this office.

Since the release date of the website which was 10/06/2008 and through 11/28/2011, the following activity has occurred on the www.FLrestoremyrights.com website.

No. of visitors to site: 820,391
No. of certificate searches: 669,464
No. of RCR certificates found: 69,991
No. of RCR certificates viewed and possibly printed: 47,618

The month of December included a Clemency Hearing with 81 cases being heard before the Clemency Board. This took place December 16th. All pre and post processing has been completed and we now look forward to the next hearing scheduled for March 22, 2012.

Coordinator Julie McCall has asked all staff members in the Office of Executive Clemency to submit their work goals for 2012 along with the steps necessary to accomplish these goals. We also plan to assemble as a group to focus on a master plan for the office and evaluate how our individual goals will contribute to our overall success with that plan.

We anticipate a great deal of excitement during this next year!

LEGAL
Sarah Rumph, General Counsel

During November, all of the re-entry telephone conference calls culminated in a day-long meeting with the Department over the next steps for the Second Chance Grant Act. This month was also busy downtown, finishing up answering questions of legislators and their staff before session starts in January. On November 14th, the legal office also assisted in facilitating the interviews for the current Parole Commissioner vacancy.

I am most proud to report that on November 10th, the legal office did, in fact, have 100% participation in the FSECC 5k run/walk. It was a great team event.

In December the Legal office joined up with other office forces downtown at the Capitol to provide any aid necessary for the successful passage of the bills proposing lengthening the possible time between subsequent interviews for those convicted of either kidnapping or convicted of burglary/breaking-and-entering/robbery where there was a sexual act attempted or completed. Everything is on the right track so far.

Legal also participated with Human Resources on the December Employee Enrichment event where FPC hosted EAP, a valuable service which offers so much more than just substance and alcohol abuse assistance. They are almost like your own concierge; they offer referrals for elder care, pet care, child care and even home care.

Legal usually spends this time (up through February) absolutely slammed with court orders since the judges and clerks are trying to clear their holiday calendars. This year appears to be no exception.

In Epperson v. Buss, the Commission filed a motion to dismiss the inmate's challenges since the court had already ruled on them. The inmate requested that the court instead transfer the petition to the Florida Supreme Court for their review of his issues. The court stated, basically, that it already tried to give his case to the Florida Supreme Court and then sent it back, to which the court ruled on the merits and denied it. Therefore, the case was dismissed.

Legal is currently seeking Florida Supreme Court review of the First District Court of Appeal opinion in Taylor v. FPC. The First District Court of Appeal found that the Commission abused its discretion by rejecting the recommendation of the hearing examiner to reinstate supervision for a violation by Mr. Taylor for using marijuana. The orders by the lower court indicate the lower's court's disagreement with the First District Court of Appeal decision. Using this disagreement, we have sought Florida Supreme Court discretionary jurisdiction.

We also received three orders for the month. First, in Fraga v. DOC, et al., the inmate argued that the Commission lost jurisdiction over him when he was paroled from prison to an INS detainer. The court rejected this contention and all of the inmate's other arguments, denying the petition. Next, in Willie Brown v. FPC, the inmate argued that he should not have been found guilty of willfully and substantially violating supervision because it was necessary for him to help his girlfriend whose car had broken down. The court recognized that the Commission may reject the inmate's defense to his curfew violation. The last case, Orestes Rodriguez v. FPC, the United States District Court Magistrate Judge recommended denying the inmate's challenges to the Commission's calculations of his PPRD. The court stated that the Commission's setting of the PPRD does not rise to a US Constitutional violation unless there is evidence of knowing and intentional use of false information or "flagrant or unauthorized action" by the Commission.